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## Creating a viable, balanced King County budget for our community



**King County**

Dear Fellow West Seattleite,

It is truly an honor to serve the citizens of King County Council District Eight. Over the past several years I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many wonderful people—from White Center, Boulevard Park, South Park, Vashon, West Seattle, Burien and throughout King County—as together we tackle the difficult challenges facing our local communities.



**Councilmember  
Dow Constantine**

Our most daunting task this year was adopting a budget that meets the needs of our citizens. Revenues are relatively flat. Demand for services and the cost of delivering those services is increasing. The County continues to struggle to find ways to provide all the quality services that our citizens expect and deserve.

As vice-chair of the Council's Budget Committee, I am proud of our accomplishment this year in crafting a balanced 2005 County budget. We continued to strive for increased efficiencies and better ways of providing services. We focused on community priorities and invested in the programs that will provide the greatest return on investment.

You have entrusted me with a great responsibility. I work hard every day to justify that trust. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Dow*

Dow Constantine  
Metropolitan King County Council  
District Eight

**Winter 2005**

# West Seattle/Delridge Budget Highlights

As a member of the Budget Leadership team, I worked throughout October and November to produce an efficient and effective budget. I also worked hard to ensure that the needs of our local community were met.

## Roxbury Medical Clinic

The rising cost of health insurance has made it impossible for many citizens to receive quality health care. Thankfully, we have medical clinics in our community that provide medical care for those who need it, regardless of ability to pay. The dedicated staff at the Roxbury Medical Clinic operate on a shoestring—they even contribute their own earnings to keep the clinic running. King County recognizes the need to invest in healthy families, and the 2005 budget includes funds to help offset some of the cost of unreimbursed care at the clinic. You too can help. Contact Dr. Gwen Marcus at 206-763-5057 or [gmarcus@hchnet.org](mailto:gmarcus@hchnet.org)

## Elliott Bay Water Taxi

The Elliott Bay Water Taxi has been a huge success in moving people from West Seattle to downtown and back efficiently and economically. I am proud to have this important project funded again in 2005. We will continue to team with the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce to promote local businesses, and will work with the community councils to further develop the free Alki summer shuttle bus.

## Preserving and Promoting our Heritage and Culture

West Seattle, the birthplace of the city, is rich in history and has developed strong heritage and cultural

programs. The County, through the 2005 budget, has invested in these important assets and partnered with the Southwest Seattle Historical Society and ArtsWest to help enhance and promote arts, culture, and heritage in West Seattle.

## three projects | one community

West Seattle is fortunate to have many people who dedicate their time and energy to improving our community. One such effort is three projects | one community, co-chaired by Margaret Ceis, Martha Kongsgaard, and Vivian McLean. This ambitious capital improvement effort includes constructing a permanent home for the West Seattle Food Bank and Community Resource Center, redeveloping the Historic Cooper School into a Cultural Arts Center plus housing, and creating 21 affordable residences for families.

three projects | one community has created numerous partnerships with government, business, and nonprofit entities. I am proud that King County has rallied to the cause through its housing finance program and 2005 budget.

## Water-borne Transit Study

As a member of the County's Regional Transit Committee, I teamed with a Councilmember from the Eastside to request that water-borne transit be studied by King County Metro as an ongoing, alternative transportation option. In addition to the Elliott Bay Water Taxi, a number of possible foot ferry routes have been discussed, including service from Eastside locations to the University of Washington and beyond.

I look forward to working with interested citizens on this issue next year, as we seek to support and expand the availability of water-borne transit in our County.

